

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated December 12, 2007. All rejections and objections of the Examiner are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the claims are supported at various places in the Specification and Drawings as originally filed. For example, support for the present claim amendments is found at lines 10-22 on page 5 and lines 9-18 on page 23 of the Specification, and in Figures 5 and 6. No new matter has been added.

At paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to certain claims for informality. Amendments to the claims herein are respectfully believed to meet all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

At paragraphs 2-3, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Amendments to claim 4 herein are respectfully believed to satisfy all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

At paragraphs 4-5, the Examiner rejected claims 17-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 17-24 and 26 have been cancelled herein without prejudice.

At paragraphs 6-7, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 for anticipation under 35 U.S.C. 102, citing U.S. patent number 6,301,609 of Aravamudan (Aravamudan). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Aravamudan discloses assignable associate priorities for user-definable instant messaging buddy groups. The unified messaging solution and services platform of Aravamudan are provided by using the features and capabilities associated with instant messaging to locate a

registered user, query the user for a proposed message disposition, and coordinate services among a plurality of communication devices, modes, and channels. A user proxy is registered to the user as a personal communication services platform in Aravamudan. The user of Aravamudan is able to define various rules for responding to received data and communications, and the rules stored within a rules database servicing the communication services platform.

Specifically, Fig. 4 of Aravamudan shows a flow diagram of a method for provisioning a new user in terms of the user's client premises equipment (CPE), the Communication Services Platform (CSP), and the Instant Message (IM) server. A prospective user of Aravamudan first contacts the service provider to obtain integrated IM service. The Aravamudan user is provided with provisioning software for use with his CPE, installs the provisioning software onto his CPE device(s), and then connects and registers, via his CPE, to the provider's secure provisioning server by entering his password. The Aravamudan provisioning server registers the address of the user's instant message server and provisions the client CPE software with a unique identification (ID). The Aravamudan provisioning server additionally conveys a copy of the user address and password to the Communication Services Platform (CSP), which creates personal and administrative databases for the new user. The CSP of Aravamudan also conveys the unique ID to the IM server, creating a new IM account for the user. The IM server of Aravamudan creates an initial buddy group for the user, which includes the user's CPE and CSP identity, in accordance with step 216. See Aravamudan, column 6, lines 32-63.

Aravamudan further discloses that the client software installed on the accessing CPE device detects network connectivity, that the client CPE software generates a message indicating the user's online status and current user address, and conveys the message to the Instant Message (IM) server, indicating the user's online presence and address. Specifically, if the CPE device

that a user is utilizing is a packet device, then the packet address to which the CPE device is attached is provided. Alternatively, if the CPE device is one which accesses a PSTN network, then the PSTN exchange number is provided. The IM server of Aravamudan then notifies the CSP of the user's online presence and address, and also notifies selected buddies to the user of the user's presence online. The Aravamudan CSP updates the CSP database to indicate that the user is online, which CPE device the user is utilizing to access the network, and the address to which the CPE device is attached. See column 7, lines 1-20.

Upon receiving notification of the user's presence online, the Aravamudan CSP checks for pending events, including any outstanding data, communication, or notification received and held in abeyance during that time period for which the user had been off-line or inactive. Examples of pending events given in Aravamudan include e-mail messages, voice mail messages, a log of attempted call connections while off-line, status of selected buddies as identified by the user, delivery of webpages or other packetized information either specifically requested by the user or returned as a result of predefined keyword search parameters, or communications with a proxy of the user. See column 7, lines 21-32.

Nowhere in Aravamudan is there disclosed or suggested a method of providing a local computer system user with detail information about at least one remote computer system user, comprising:

- obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

- presenting, by said awareness client application process, an awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object includes an indication of said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said presenting said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, detail information regarding said remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information database server process separate from said awareness server application process, and *wherein said detail information regarding said remote user includes a contact phone number, at least one job role, at least one direct report, and at least one area of expertise of said remote computer system user,*

detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

presenting, by said awareness client application process, said detail information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system, *wherein said presenting includes allowing initiation of an internet protocol phone call by selection of said contact phone number by said local computer system user.* (emphasis added)

as in the present independent claim 1. In contrast, the teachings of Aravamudan describe a system in which notification of a user's presence online causes the CSP to *check for pending events*, such as an outstanding communication or notification received and held in abeyance during that time period for which the user had been off-line or inactive (e.g. e-mail messages, voice mail messages, status of selected buddies as identified by the user, delivery of webpages or other packetized information either specifically requested by the user or returned as a result of predefined keyword search parameters, or communications with a proxy of the user). This aspect of Aravamudan differs fundamentally from the present claim 1 firstly in that the user presence being referred to is the presence of the *local user*, not of a *remote user*, as in the present independent claim 1. Secondly, the pending events in Aravamudan are events received and held in abeyance while the user was offline, as opposed to the detail information of the present claim 1, which includes *a contact phone number, at least one job role, at least one direct report, and at least one area of expertise of said remote computer system user*. Finally, nothing in Aravamudan provides any hint or suggestion of presenting detail information regarding a remote computer

system in a way that allows *initiation of an internet protocol phone call by selection of said contact phone number by said local computer system user*, as also set forth in the present independent claim 1.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully urges that Aravamudan does not disclose or suggest all the features of the present independent claim 1. Aravamudan therefore fails to anticipate the present independent claim 1. As to the remaining claims, they each depend from claim 1 and are respectfully believed to be patentable over Aravamudan for at least the same reasons.

At paragraphs 9-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected specified claims for double patenting. A terminal disclaimer submitted herewith is respectfully believed to meet all requirements of the Examiner in this regard.

Reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant has cancelled and amended claims herein. However, Applicant is not conceding in this application that the unamended or cancelled claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the or unamended and/or cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional patent applications.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicant's Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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